

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 03708 241150Z

51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 NIC-01 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 STR-01 /095 W

----- 072025

R 240920Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1594

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3708

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, RP, TS

SUBJECT: MANILA-TAIPEI FRICTION AS PHILIPPINE "NORMALIZATION" WITH
PRC NEARS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: MANILA 2622

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT MARCH 19 PRESS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT MARCOS
AVOIDED DIVULGING DATE OF PEKING VISIT, BUT SAID AGREEMENTS
WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT "SIMULTANEOUSLY" WITH PEKING AND
TAIWAN. THIS NEW FORMULATION MAY BE IN RESPONDS TO HARD-LINE
FROM GRC WHICH HAS BEEN TELLING GOP THAT "JAPANESE FORMULA"
NOT POSSIBLE HERE AND THAT RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN MUST BE "ALL
OR NOTHING". IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT GRC WOULD GAIN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 03708 241150Z

BY HASSLING MARCOS IN EFFORT TO PREVENT THE INEVITABLE OR

(IF MERELY BLUFFING OR BARGAINING) WHAT THEIR ACTUAL GOAL IS. DESPITE IRRITATIONS OF CURRENT TRANSITION PERIOD GOP IS AND WILL REMAIN ANXIOUS TO PRESERVE DE FACTO COOPERATION WITH TAIWAN, BUT NOT TO POINT OF ABANDONING GOAL OF NORMALIZATION WITH PRC. END SUMMARY.

1. UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDS MODALITY ANDTIMING OF "NORMALIZATION" OF RELATIONS BETWEEN MANILA AND PRC. WE ARE STILL NOT SURE EXACTLY WHEN MARCOS WILL MAKE HIS PREPARATORY VISIT TO PEKING, ALTHOUGH LATE SUMMER STILL LIKELY. A REPORTER WHO ASKED ABOUT DATE OF TRIP AT MARCH 19 PRESSCONFERENCE ELICITED FOLLOWING REPLY (VERBATIM FROM TAPE): "WE STILL HAVE TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IN TAIWAN...(PAUSE) AND OF COURSE THE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENTS (PLURAL) WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THIS HAS TO BE SIMULTANEOUSLY DONE. (ANOTHER PAUSE). I HAVE ALSO DIRECTED THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION BE NOW INITIATED...FIRST THE TRADE AGREEMENT."

2. PRESIDENT HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY LINKED NORMALIZATION WITH "SIMULTANEOUS"/ACCOMMODATION WITH TAIWAN IN THIS FASHION, AND IS SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT HE MAY SAY SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT TOMORROW OR THE NEXT DAY. MOST APPARENT EXPLANATION IS THAT HE MAY BE RESPONDING TO EXTREMELY STRONG EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FROM TAIPEI, MOST RECENTLY CONVEYED TO MANILA BY AMBASSADOR LAPUS WHEN HE RETURNED FROM "CONSULTATIONS" SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. GIST OF GRC HARD LINE WHICH IS ALSO BEING PURVEYED BY GRC EMBASSY HERE IS THAT ROC WANTS "ALL OR NOTHING" IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH MANILA. AS CHINESE EMBOFF EXPLAINED TO US COUNTERPART RECENTLY, ROC UNWILLING TO ACCEPT "JAPANESE" TYPE ACCOMMODATION IN CASE OF PHILIPPINES FOR TWO REASONS: A) ROC DOES NOT NEED THE PHILIPPINES THE WAY IT NEEDS JAPAN (HE CITED PREPONDERANCE OF JAPANESE-EQUIPPED INDUSTRY IN TAIWAN) AND B) ROC IS FAR MORE CONCERNED ABOUT PRC PRESENCE IN PHILIPPINES THAN IN JAPAN BECAUSE OF GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY.

3. PRESUMABLY IN EFFORT TO ALARM GOP, CHINESE EMBASSY HERE HAS ALSO BEEN BUSILY CIRCULATING SINKING-SHIP RUMORS TO EFFECT THAT LOCAL ETHNIC CHINESE NOTABLES ARE "PLEDGING ALLEG-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 03708 241150Z

ANCE" TO PEKING. GRC EMBOFF SAID SHIFT OF ALLEGIANCE SOMETIMES BUT NOT ALWAYS INDICATED BY ENROLLMENT IN ONE OF NEW PEKING-ORIENTED ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HE SAID NOW PROLIFERATING IN PHILIPPINES.

4. MARCOS STATEMENT THAT ARRANGEMENTS WITH PRC AND TAIWAN MUST BE SIMULTANEOUS MAY REPRESENT NOTHING MORE THAN AN EFFORT TO BE PUBLICLY PLEASANT TO THE TAIWANESE. (IN

HIS CONTACTS WITH US BEFORE RETURNING TO TAIPEI MARCH 20
AMBASSADOR LAPUS DID NOT INDICATE THAT GOP WAS IN FACT
YIELDING ONE WHIT IN RESPONSE TO GRC HARD LINE, WHICH HE
SAID IS MAKING HIS POSITION IN TAIPEI VERY UNCOMFORTABLE."
IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT BY PUBLICLY SUGGESTING CAUTION AND
PERHAPS DELAY IN NORMALIZATION, MARCOS MAY BE RESPONDING TO
PRESSURE FROM SOVIETS (WHOSE TASS CORRESPONDENT ASKED POINTED
AND HOSTILE QUESTIONS ABOUT TIMING OF PEKING VISIT AT
EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 2."

5. PHILIPPINES HAS, OF CORSE, BEEN EXPOSED TO GRC HARD
LINE SINCE 1974 WHEN FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY RAMOS MADE
FRUITLESS APPEAL TO GRC TO BE UNDERSTANDING. WHILE GOP
PRESUMABLY QUITE PREPARED TO TOLERATE GRC HARD LINE IF IN
THE END IT COULD WORK OUT "JAPANESE" ACCOMMODATION, IT WOULD
HAVE REASON FOR REAL CONCERN IF IT FELT GRC REALLY DID IN-
TEND TO SEVER ALL REPEAT ALL RELATIONS IF GOP WENT AHEAD
WITH PLAN ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PRC. GOP POLICY TOWARD
PRC FIXED AND IN MOTION BUT IT CLEARLY DOES NOT EXCLUDE
DESIRE RETAIN SOME TIES WITH GRC.

6. WHETHER GRC BLUFFING OR NOT, ADDITIONAL PRESSURES ON
GOP AT THIS LATE STAGE CAN ONLY HAVE PAINFUL SIDE EFFECTS
FOR BOTH SIDES. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE PHILIPPINES MAY NOT
COUNT AS MUCH IN GRC'S EYES AS JAPAN, EXCESSIVE PRESSURES
EVEN IF THEY ARE BLUFFS COULD JEOPARDIZE RETENTION OF GRC
ASSETS HERE (GRC CHANCERY BUILDINGS, ETC.) THEY COULD ALSO
UNSETTLE CLIMATE FOR TAIWANESE MONEY--ALTHOUGH GOP WOULD
PRESUMABLY BEND OVER BACKWARD TO AVOID SUDDEN DRAIN OF
INVESTMENTS. MORE IMPORTANT TO PHILIPPINES AND PRESUMABLY
TAIWAN IS RETENTION OF COOPERATION IN SECURITY AND INTELLI-
GENCE. ADVENT OF PRC HERE WOULD PRESUMABLY HEIGHTEN GOP
SECURITY CONCERNS WHILE AT SAME TIME MAKING COOPERATION PARTI-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MANILA 03708 241150Z

CULARLY VALUABLE TO GRC. IN SHORT, WE SEE LITTLE GRC WOULD
HAVE TO GAIN IN PRESSURING GOP SINCE LATTER IS GOING AHEAD
WITH PRC RECOGNITION AND A LOT BOTH WOULD LOST SHOULD GRC
SERIOUSLY PURSUE ALL OR NOTHING POLICY TOWARDS GOP.
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA03708
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750102-0138
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750322/aaaaatvj.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANILA 2622
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MANILA-TAIPEI FRICTION AS PHILIPPINE "NORMALIZATION" WITH PRC NEARS
TAGS: PFOR, CH, RP, TS, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006